

July 29, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

I have recently learned about LightSquared's proposal and heard of the devastating affects this would have on our industry. I live in South Central Illinois and work for a local cooperative. I've been with this company for almost four years and was hired in to manage our Precision Agriculture Department. Since I've been with the company, we've seen major growth in equipment sales as customers have become educated on environmental and economic gain. Customers are benefiting from guidance, auto swath, and data collection. We're seeing less product waste and ultimately financial gain.

Without quality GPS we will no longer be able to rely on auto shutoffs on application equipment. We will start seeing more product waste again from over application or off target application. Growers will have to manually steer their equipment which results in more stress and less work actually being accomplished. We have been working diligently to collect data and learn from field operations in order to better utilize our assets. By doing so we're working to cut down on waste which is beneficial for our environment as well. If LightSquared is allowed to disrupt our current GPS system, several precision agriculture jobs will be in jeopardy. It is a growing sector in the industry and both growers and businesses see are seeing the benefits.

We struggle locally with wireless coverage as well as broadband services; however precision agriculture is far more important than those services. In our area, agriculture is our livelihood. It is what allows our local economy to survive. Precision Agriculture allows us to better utilize every acre of farm land and maximize yield output. On a global scale, we can't afford to regress on production. Losing precision agriculture would be a major setback.

Research has shown that LightSquared's proposal would wipe out GPS reception. They should not be allowed to disrupt such vital technology. By allowing LightSquared to proceed we will see loss both economically and environmentally. I urge you to consider the affects LightSquared will have on the agriculture industry as a whole, and save our GPS system.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Ochs
Wabash Valley Service Co
Technology Specialist